

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Record set again for summer missions

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Mississippi Baptist collegians are on their way to setting another all-time record for summer missions service, according to figures provided by the Collegiate Ministry Department (CMD) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

A total of 201 summer missionaries, nine spring 2009 semester missionaries, and five fall 2009 semester missionaries have served or will soon be serving in 20 states including Mississippi and 27 countries abroad.

"Mississippi consistently ranks in the top three states in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in sending summer missionaries through the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board," said CMD Associate Director Beverly Parrish.

Some states report their student missionary counts using different methodologies, Parrish said, which makes it difficult to declare which state is number one — but Mississippi is always at or near the top.

The Collegiate Ministry Department partners with the North American Mission Board, based in Alpharetta, Ga., and the International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., to screen and prepare summer missionaries for service. Both organizations are SBC agencies.



**COMMISSIONED** — Collegiate summer missionaries from Baptist Student Unions (BSU) around the state of Mississippi are recognized April 4 during the commissioning service of the 2009 Leadership Training Conference at Mississippi College in Clinton. Mississippi Baptist summer missionaries set another record this year and continue to rank at the top of the Southern Baptist Convention. The student missionaries were divided into two groups for seating purposes. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Collegiate summer missionaries are required to raise all or most of their expenses in order to participate in the ministry. They give up virtually all their free summer time to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ across America and the world. Some locations, even within the U.S., can be exotic experiences. Specific responsibilities vary by assignment.

International service in 2009 will include South America, Pacific Rim, South Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, Africa, Central/Eastern Europe, Canada, and North Africa/Middle East. The names of specific countries where student missionaries will be serving are not listed for security reasons.

Summer missionaries for 2009 in the U.S. will serve in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota/Wisconsin, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas.

The missionaries were commissioned during a special ser-

vice April 4 at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, after going through a missions orientation the day before at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton.

MBCB Executive Director Jim Futral delivered the keynote address at the Leadership Training Conference, challenging the students to have "the heart of a leader," based on chapter four of the Gospel of John.

"It was amazing to see the largest number of students in the history of Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) recognized during commissioning," said CMD Director Weaver McCracken. "God is using BSU across our state to challenge and call out huge numbers of students to serve in missions. Special thanks is due to the faithful churches which support and help send these students."

Parrish, a former associate director of Baptist Student Ministry at Texas A&M University, is in her first year at CMD. "This was my first orientation and LTC, but I am consistently amazed at the dedication of our BSU directors in Mississippi — and the passion they have — for sending students to the mission field."

In addition to the funds raised by the student missionaries themselves and support from local churches and associations, summer missions are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

For more information on summer missions and other CMD ministries, contact the department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3301 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 301. E-mail: ppowell@mbcb.org.




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# The Mississippi pipeline

Most Mississippi Baptists likely don't realize the number of Christian leaders God produces through us, year in/year out and decade after decade. We should pause occasionally to take note of that fact, first to offer praise to God for his faithfulness to us, and secondly, because it's not an accident.

The "Mississippi pipeline" to Christian service starts early — on the cradle rolls of our churches. Thanks to those preschool workers, it's often a toss up whether a child's first word is "Dada," "Mamma," or "Jesus." Those youngsters have proceeded over the years to programs like children's choirs, Sunbeams, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Christian summer camps, and a host of others that sharpened their understanding of how to trust in Jesus and evangelize the world with the Good News.

When it comes time to decide on a college, Mississippi Baptists offer them three Christian choices: Mississippi College in Clinton in the center of the state, William Carey University in Hattiesburg in the southern part of the state, and Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain in the northern part of the state.

When they go to college in Mississippi — whether a Baptist or secular school — they discover a Baptist Student Union (BSU) waiting to accept them. At a crucial intersection in their lives where long-awaited freedom meets great temptation, the BSUs serve as a lighthouse to our "church kids" as well as unsaved students.

What kind of leaders has the Mississippi pipeline produced? Though virtually assured of leaving out many great leaders, a few who can be named are:

- the late Tylertown native James L. Sullivan, who served as SBC president and headed the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) in Nashville for many years. He is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest Christian statesmen the Southern Baptist Convention has ever produced.

- the late Owen Cooper, founder and president of Mississippi Chemical Company in Yazoo City, in its heyday one of the largest corporations in the state. In addition to his manifold missions enterprises, Cooper was one of only two laymen ever elected as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

- Tupelo native Jerry Rankin, currently serving as president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va. Rankin and his wife Bobbye are both members of the Hall of Fame at Mississippi College.

- Kosciusko native Morris Chapman, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and current president of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. Chapman is also a graduate of Mississippi College.

- Greenville native Bill Causey, a graduate of Mississippi College, longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor, former president

of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and retired executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

- Jim Futral, a graduate of Clarke College (the disbanded Mississippi Baptist two-year college in Newton) and Blue Mountain College, longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor, former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and current president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

- Philadelphia native Jimmy Porter, a graduate of Clarke College and Blue Mountain College, longtime Mississippi Baptist pastor, former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and current executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission in Jackson.

The Mississippi pipeline is larger than the few programs detailed here, and many more leaders have come out of the pipeline than just those listed. Many more are in the Mississippi pipeline right now. It's thrilling to know that future leaders are being chosen and raised up right now, but the greatest part is understanding we all have a role to play in the success of the Mississippi pipeline for many more generations.

What are you doing in your church to ensure that success? That's where it all starts. You are an important component of the Mississippi pipeline that produces such outstanding leaders.

If you don't believe that, just start praying and watch in amazement as God reveals Himself — and your role in this great Kingdom work — to you.

## GUEST OPINION:



### Angels and Demons: one movie to skip

By Ted Baehr, publisher  
MOVIEGUIDE

wrong. They are caught up in this Big Lie against Christianity. Even worse, many of those caught in the lie are Christians who have compartmentalized their faith while allowing the loony left to educate them in the corrosive, revisionist, politically correct lies of our age.

None of the facts support any of Dan Brown's views about Jesus Christ and Christianity, but we live in an age gone mad where people have forgotten first principles. Yet, our Christian holidays have been handed over to the pagans. For example, the English word "Easter" used in 16th Century Christian scholar William Tyndale's and other English translations of the Bible is not rooted in pagan words, as some pseudo-intellectual scholars of the 19th Century began to teach. It is actually rooted in the old German word Oster, which meant resurrection.

Many people today, however, have accepted the pseudo-intellectual lies about the nature of such Christian holidays as Easter. They have also accepted many unproven lies about who Jesus is.

There is a principle that can help us out of this madness. Trust the ancient sources of Christendom much more than the modern pundits and scribes. William Tyndale is a much more reliable source about the Bible, or Martin Luther (who did a German translation of the Bible), than the modern heretics running our schools these days — and he is certainly a far more reliable source than Dan Brown or contemporary atheists like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens.

The Bible is a reliable, accurate history about God's dealings with the human race since the beginning of time. As Jesus

Himself says in Matthew 4:4, quoting Moses and God in Deuteronomy 8:3, "Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

The traditional doctrines of Christianity are worthy of your faith and trust. Please warn your relatives, neighbors, and friends about the lies coming from such anti-Christian bigots like Dan Brown and Christopher Hitchens. There are much better, much more accurate books and novels to read than *Angels & Demons*, and there will be much better movies to see this summer than director Ron Howard's version of Dan Brown's occult madness.

Seek first the Kingdom, or Rule, of God and His Righteousness in your life (Matthew 6:33) and overcome the evil of godless occult fairy tales like *Angels & Demons* or *Harry Potter* by pursuing (and filling your eyes, mind, and heart with) the Good, the True, and the Beautiful.

Baehr holds a law degree from New York University School of Law. He founded MOVIEGUIDE, which reviews entertainment media from a Christian perspective, and is chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission. He is the son of Irvine E. Theodore Baehr, better known as the late cowboy actor Robert "Tex" Allen, and actress Evelyn Peirce.



# Vermont, Iowa join in affirming homosexual marriage

MONTPELIER, Vt. (BP and local reports) — Vermont's Democratic-controlled legislature handed the homosexual marriage movement a landmark victory Tuesday, overriding a gubernatorial veto and making the state the first in the nation to legalize homosexual marriage without a court order.

Requiring a two-thirds vote in each chamber to override Republican Gov. Jim Douglas' veto, the bill passed the Senate with ease, 23-5, and then squeaked by in the House by the slimmest of margins, 100-49. It needed a minimum of 100 votes in the House to reach a two-thirds majority.

The new law will go into effect Sept. 1, making Vermont the fourth state to legalize homosexual marriage, behind Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Iowa — all of which were forced to recognize homosexual marriage through court orders.

In recent days opponents of the bill tried but failed to have legislators allow citizens to vote on a non-binding question to gauge public opinion on the issue.

Passage of the bill also means the nation has seen the number of states that recognize homosexual marriage — or soon will do so — double in the past week. Iowa's highest court handed down its ruling just four days ago.

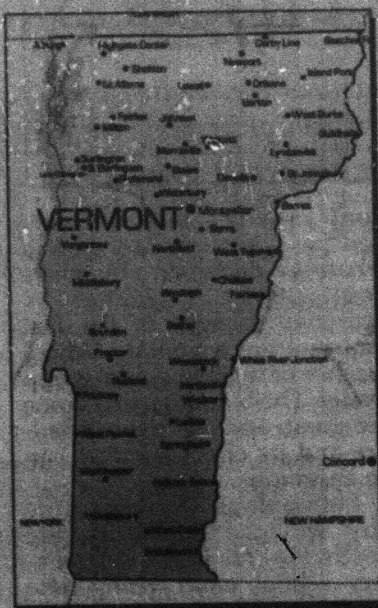
"With its enactment, the Vermont legislature made a profound social policy statement that mothers and fathers are not necessary for the family, and that the sex of a parent doesn't matter," Austin R. Nimmo, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, told Baptist Press. The religious liberty organization opposed the bill.

"It's unfortunate any time you see a court or a legislature say that children are not entitled to both a mother and a father, and it should never be the intent of any policy or law to intentionally deprive children of what they need, and that's both a mom and a dad."

The law changes the state definition of marriage from a legally-recognized union of one man and one woman to a legally-recognized union of two people. It also transformed the terms bride and groom into gender-neutral words. In fact, each party requesting a marriage license will determine whether he/she wants to be referred to as a bride, groom or spouse — meaning that, under the new law, two men or two women could decide to be referred to in the traditional sense: a bride and groom.

Douglas vetoed the bill Monday evening, setting up a quick-paced attempt at an override. House Speaker Shap Smith, a Democrat and a strong backer of the bill, seemed to be fighting back tears upon announcing the vote total.

During floor debate in the House, opponents urged repre-



sentatives to oppose the bill, saying it would result in negative social change. Republican Rep. Donald Turner said the bill would result in "radically redefining our most basic social institution."

"Marriage is the way that we as a culture — like virtually every other culture known to man — link children with their mother and father who made them," Turner, who voted against the bill, said. "Whatever rights and benefits we decide to extend same-sex couples, this biological reality of marriage should not be lightly erased."

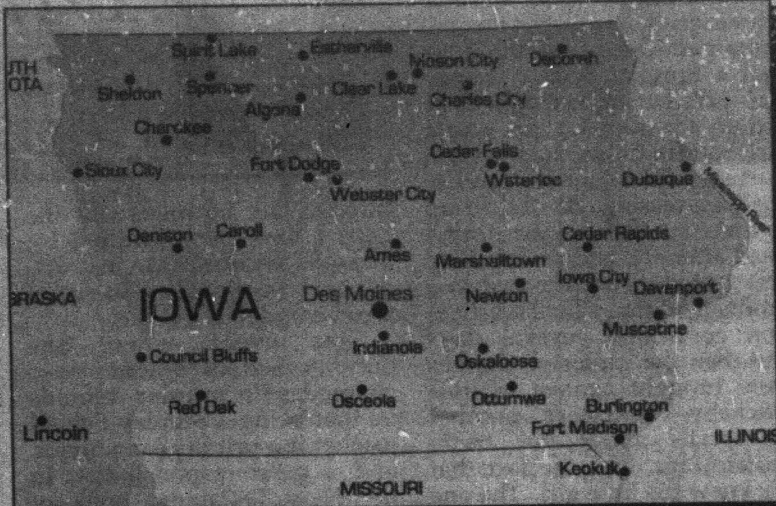
A January Gallup Poll found that Vermont was the least religious state in the nation, with only 42% of residents answering "yes" when asked, "Is religion an important part of your daily life?"

Vermont passed the bill nine years after it became the first state to legalize same-sex civil unions, through a court-order.

"Just because the legislature makes an enactment doesn't make it true," Nimmo, the attorney, said of the legislature's passage of the homosexual marriage bill. "If the Vermont legislature passed a resolution that the earth was flat, does that make it true? Of course not, and the simple fact is that marriage predated the Vermont legislature — just like my mother predated me."

"I don't get to redefine who my mother is. It's just a simple fact of common sense. The institution of marriage has predated the legislature and government and the United States, and it's not the prerogative of anybody to redefine it. It is the prerogative of every state and U.S. citizen to uphold the institution as it has always been defined, as one man and one woman."

Nimmo also said he does not think homosexual marriage legalization nationwide is inevitable. "I don't believe for a second that same-sex marriage is going to become the policy of the United States or a majority of states," he said, "and the fact that there are 30 constitutional amendments amongst our 50 states upholding marriage as the union



of one man and one woman — plus several other constitutional amendment efforts in other states — only bolsters that fact."

Meanwhile, Iowa's Supreme Court may have legalized homosexual marriage, but that doesn't mean the state's citizens have accepted it — and they're letting their legislators know.

Unlike California, where citizens gathered petitions to place an amendment banning homosexual marriage on the ballot, Iowa's law requires a constitutional amendment overturning the court's decision first to go through the legislature, which is controlled by Democrats whose leaders have promised to block it.

Supporters of the amendment, though, are urging Iowans to repeatedly call their legislators and urge them to pass the amendment (H.J.R. 6 in the state House). It appears many Iowans already have done that.

"Iowans are rising up and contacting their legislators in numbers and in waves that I have not heard of before," Bryan English, a spokesperson for the Iowa Family Policy Center, which supports the amendment, told Baptist Press. "Over the weekend people were actually getting in their cars and driving to the homes of some of these legislators to make their case for the opportunity to vote on a marriage amendment."

Eric Schumacher, pastor of Northbrook Church in Cedar Rapids, said he has contacted

his legislators and has urged his congregation to do the same.

"[A]s citizens in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, we have both the privilege and the responsibility to act so that our civil government functions as God intended — to approve what is good and to punish what is bad," he told BP. "To neglect participation in such a government is to squander a privilege that few Christians have enjoyed in church history."

The situation is certain to test the resolve of amendment backers. Although a majority of legislators might support the amendment if it were to come to a floor vote, Senate Majority Leader Michael Gronstal and House Speaker Pat Murphy, both Democrats, released a statement praising the court's ruling.

"It will not come up," Gronstal was quoted as saying during a press conference. "I have no intention of taking it up."

Gronstal has changed his position since 1998, when he joined a majority of legislators in passing a bill that banned homosexual marriage in state law. Although House Speaker Murphy now backs homosexual marriage, Democratic House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy may not.

McCarthy has said in the past he opposes homosexual marriage, but asked about it after the ruling he told reporters, "My personal opinion is irrelevant at this stage."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

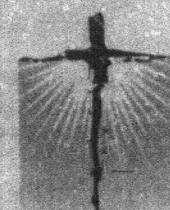
An initiative by several Baptist state conventions to evangelize in the N.E. United States moves forward with the selection of Bill Causey, former executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, to serve as coordinator of Impact Northeast.

### 20 years ago

Bill Causey, pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson, is unanimously elected executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at a special called board meeting. He replaces Earl Kelly, who retires in August after nearly 16 years of service.

### 30 years ago

The Marion County Baptist Training Union announces Associational Youth Night May 2, with a goal of 1,000 in attendance. Features include a ventriloquist dummy, "Joe the Baptist."



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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IDXXPHN XNHMB-  
GQO: IQIXB-XNL

Clue: N = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Twelve: Forty

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

On the weekend of Easter 2009, lead stories in newspapers and the headlines on cable television news programs all contained the same thing — that a Sunday School teacher was accused of killing a little girl in California. The young girl, Sandra Cantu, had been in the news for sometime because she was missing. The follow-up to that was that she was found dead after she had been placed in a suitcase and dumped in a drainage ditch. The investigation continued several days and then the explosive charges were brought against Melissa Huckaby. There were a number of details about her background, age, and the fact that she knew the little girl. The one common thread that tied every story together was that she was a Sunday School teacher.

I read some of the stories about the woman being charged and I listened to the news and then the unending chatter which invariably would circle around and return to the fact that she was a Sunday School teacher. I began to have two recurring and contrasting thoughts. My first thought was this is a terrible thing — the death, the murder, and the fact that this woman, a Sunday School teacher, was charged by the authorities. My second thought was while the tragedy of murder is not good, the fact that the news focused on her being a Sunday School teacher is not all together bad. I don't think the news media intended to raise the standard or brag on Sunday School teachers, but I do believe that they recognize that over the years and in most of the thousands of Sunday Schools across our land, these are great people and that is what makes this event so shocking.

While all of our churches across the state have numerous Sunday School teachers and Bible study leaders, so often they do not receive their well-deserved accolades and are seldom recognized for their significance in Kingdom work. It is only when one person goes tragically awry that we stop to think about how magnificent so many of them are. I am not just talking about brilliant Bible teachers, but I am talking about amazing, multi-gifted individuals who may be teaching in the preschool area, children's division, youth group, adults, or even senior adults. All

through my journey with the Lord I have been affected by, blessed, encouraged, instructed, and inspired by many of these wonderful people.

This event where the Sunday School teacher was charged with murder reminds us that being a Sunday School teacher is a privilege, an honor, and a great responsibility. In the New Testament book of James, he wrote to teachers and said, "My brethren, be not many masters or teachers, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation" (3:1). What James is instructing us about is the fact that the greater the responsibility, the greater the tragedy if we fail. There are probably not but one or two readers of this article who had ever heard of Melissa Huckaby until her name was connected with the murder of a child and being a Sunday School teacher. Now the whole world hears about her because she was a Sunday School teacher and she took the life of a child. How sad!

To all of our Sunday School teachers across Mississippi, I want to say thank you for giving of your time, your love, and your gifts to make a difference in people's lives for Jesus. I also want to take a moment to encourage you to walk with integrity and walk close to the

**LAUDERDALE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**, Meridian, Miss., is seeking a full-time Associational Missions Director. Send resume to LBA, 5521 Clinton St., Marion, MS, 39342, attention: AMD Search Committee. Must be post-marked no later than May 15.

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**SEEKING PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER:** Gillsburg Baptist Church, Gillsburg, Miss., is searching for a Minister of Youth. Traveling expenses provided. Mail resumes to Chris Teasley at 6126 MS Hwy 568, Osyka, MS, 39657 or call 601-542-1230.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Lord knowing that whatever you say, wherever you go, and whatever decisions you make you will be evaluated by everyone in light of the fact that you are a Sunday School teacher or a Bible study group leader. The blessings that come are great, and the pain of failure and its effect on lives can be enormous.

I often think about the little boy who had gone to the beach. He was just an elementary school child with some money in his swimsuit pocket. He was afraid to get in the water because he was afraid that he would lose his money. He saw a lady sitting on the beach and thought she looked like someone that could be trusted and could hold his money while he went swim-

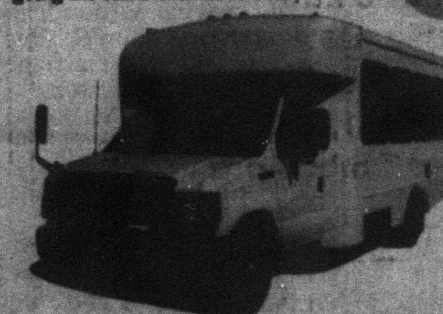
ming. He went up and started talking with the lady. He asked her if she went to church. She said, "Well, yes I do!" Then he asked, "Do you go to Sunday School?" The lady responded, "Yes." In fact, she said, "I am a Sunday School teacher." The little boy's face lit up, he reached down and took out his money that he had brought to buy some refreshments, and asked the lady if she would hold the money for him. Surprised by the request she responded, "Well, yes but why would you want me to do that?" He said, "Well, you look like somebody that can be trusted and finding out that you went to Sunday School and that you were a teacher, I know that I can trust you with my money."

What a moment, and what a shocking reality that is which all of us need to face. When we lead, teach, influence, or carry out our spiritual responsibilities in any measure, it is noteworthy and has long lasting effect. May God multiply the joys of your service to Him.

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

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## COLLEGE NEWS

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 23, 2009

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1-800-748-1651, ext. 273  
or palford@mbcb.org

## STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon, MS

Thursday, July 16 1:30 p.m. – Saturday, July 18, 3 p.m.

Cost: \$10 registration

\$19 cost of manual (for Basic workshops only) \$7 per meal (if applicable)



### Basic Workshops Offered:

- English as a Second Language (with an EFL component)
- Adult Reading and Writing
- Tutoring Children and Youth
- Chronological Bible Storying

### Seminars for those

who have had the Basic Workshop

include topics such as:

Web sites, citizenship, Biblical material, cultures and religions of internationals living in Mississippi, prison literacy ministry

Registration: on Web site May 1 or  
contact Paula Smith or Karen Redditt

(800-748-1651 ext. 316 /  
psmith@mbcb.org / kredditt@mbcb.org )  
in the State WMU Office.

### Other highlights:

- Representative from New Readers Press
- Special 50th Anniversary Celebration of  
Literacy Missions in North America



## Growing Churches Conference

"... for the training of the saints in the work  
of the ministry, to build up the body of  
Christ ..."

Ephesians 4:12 (HCSB)

Friday & Saturday  
July 24-25, 2009  
Harrisburg Baptist Church  
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd.  
Tupelo, MS 38801

Questions call: Lee Association: 662-566-1700 or MBCB Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, 1-800-748-1651  
Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Associations

## Featured Presenters:

Daniel Caldwell  
Ronald Meeks  
Wayne VanHorn  
C. Alan Woodward

Blue Mountain College  
Monday, April 20

Mississippi College  
Tuesday, April 21

William Carey University  
Wednesday, April 22

For more info:  
Pastor/Leadership  
Development  
Department  
601-292-3305  
1-800-748-1651,  
ext. 305  
kmcconnell@mbcb.org



May 1  
6 p.m.

First Baptist Church  
Pascagoula

PREACHING  
CONFERENCE



## GET CONNECTED! CONFERENCE

THIS CONFERENCE, DESIGNED FOR

- Pastors • Ministers of Education
- Sunday School Directors

WILL HELP ANY SIZE CHURCH

GET CONNECTED

- To God • To Each Other
- To the Community

THROUGH  
MEANINGFUL  
RELATIONSHIPS

Jay Richardson  
Bill Hawks

For more info or to register, Sunday School Department  
601-292-3261 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 271

Reservations  
Required

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(dinner included)

Monday, May 4

Fifteenth Avenue

Memphis

Tuesday, May 5

Garay Camp

Garay Camp

Garay Camp

## 2009 PRESCHOOL/ CHILDREN'S MINISTER RETREAT FOLLOW THE LEADER

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

Monday, April 27, and Tuesday, April 28

Cost \$45. Registration begins at 1 p.m. at Patterson Place

Charity Gwaltney - FBC, Starkville

Ronnie Falvey - FBC, Madison

Chuck Myers - Worship - Raymond Road BC

Questions? Contact Don Gann or Deanna Vail at 601-292-3335  
or 1-800-748-1651 or dgann@mbcb.org or dvail@mbcb.org

## IT'S A NEW DAY.

National leaders from Crown  
Financial Ministries will hold  
two seminars to guide you in  
helping your church family  
become DEBT FREE.

Garaywa Camp and  
Conference Center

Clinton

PLEASE NOTE DATE!!

Thursday

May 21, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\$25 per person

No charge for spouses

Central Hills  
Baptist Retreat  
Kosciusko

Friday

May 22, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\$20 per person

No charge for spouses

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Stewardship Department will waive your  
registration fee

If you call to register before May 11, 2009.

Call Susan Robinson at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 347, or locally at 601-292-3347  
or E-mail her at susan@mbcb.org

Remember to Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and  
Stewardship Department

## Called to Love... Amazing Grace

## Associational WMU Leadership Training & Annual Missions Celebration

### Conferences will be offered in the following categories:

General Interests, Development of Leadership Skills,  
Age-Level Missions Organizations (or, Adult, Women,  
Youth, Children, and Preschool Missions con-  
ferences). More than 45 conferences offered.

Registration required for lodging and/or meals

For registration info: 601-292-3317,

1-800-748-1651, ext. 317, or lmiller@mbcb.org

You may also check our Web site at  
[www.mbcb.org/mission\\_strategy/wmu](http://www.mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu)

## ANNUAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION WITH ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 2,  
10:30 a.m. - noon

CELEBRATION  
FEATURING ...  
Worship Leader  
Chuck Myers

with special guest,  
April Westbrook

Donna Swarts,  
President  
Mississippi WMU

Kay Cassibry,  
Executive Director  
Mississippi WMU

Matt & Shea,  
IMB Representatives  
Jerry Mowdy,  
MSC Representative

## 2009 STATE SENIOR ADULT RALLY

FEATURING:

Thursday, August 27

Morrison Heights BC, Clinton

Al Staggs

Daniel Hall

Ivan Park

Joe Sherrer

To register call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 216. Or mail fee to MBCB Conference  
Ministry Office, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

## MUSIC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON,

JULY 9-11

*Jesus is the Song*

CONFERENCE BEGINS AT  
12:30 ON THURSDAY  
ENDS AT NOON  
ON SATURDAY

COST OF CONFERENCE \$30

Make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail with registration form to:

Church Music Department, Leadership Conference, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 by July 1, 2009.

For more information, registration forms and motel listings, refer to your 2009 Noted Events Booklet. You  
may also call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 267, or in Jackson, 601-292-3267. There will be no child care available.

## 2009 STATE SINGLES RETREAT 30th Anniversary May 16 & 17 Central Hills, Kosciusko Theme: "Single Life with a Plus"

To register call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 216.  
Or mail fee to MBCB Conference Ministry  
Office, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.  
Deadline to register is May 8.



# 2009 Family Celebrations

Friday, May 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Family Center

For contact information:

601-289-4293 or Email: [atola@mbcb.org](mailto:atola@mbcb.org) or call 601-289-4293

Friday, May 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Family Center

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

For contact information:

601-289-4293 or Email: [atola@mbcb.org](mailto:atola@mbcb.org) or call 601-289-4293

[atola@mbcb.org](http://atola@mbcb.org)

Special Guest:

Entertainer: Judy Marby, Destin, Fla. Juggling, fire blowing, magic and more with Robert Day, Byram

601-289-4293

ourney to just one city  
s summer, Louisville,  
d see how you can  
ange the entire world!

**NATIONAL WMU®  
MISSIONS  
CELEBRATION and  
ANNUAL MEETING  
July 21-22**

Matthews  
Baptist  
Church  
Louisville,  
Kentucky

[www.wmu.com/events/annual/](http://www.wmu.com/events/annual/)

For all boys and girls  
who have  
completed  
grades 3-7

Cost \$110  
with  
\$55 deposit

**BIBLE  
DRILL CAMP**  
JUNE 29 - JULY 1, 2009  
CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST RETREAT

For info:  
Discipleship &  
Family Ministry  
Department  
601-292-3287  
[chick@mbcb.org](mailto:chick@mbcb.org)

**ignite**  
MS Super Summer 09  
JULY 13-17, 2009 • Mississippi College



**SPEAKER**  
**Matt Kerlin**  
Birmingham, AL



**WORSHIP LEADER**  
**Dave Hunt**  
Nashville, TN

**JULY 13-17, 2009**  
**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**  
**SUPER SUMMER 2009**  
**COSTS AND REGISTRATION SCHEDULE**

Students and Adult Leaders - \$200 if registered by May 1, \$250  
if registered May 2 - June 3, NO REGISTRATIONS OR REFUNDS ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 3.  
**DEADLINES STRICTLY ENFORCED!**

For a registration CD Packet, contact René Edwards at  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 284, or Email [redwards@mbcb.org](mailto:redwards@mbcb.org). You can also download forms  
from our Web site: [mbcb.org](http://mbcb.org) or [mssupersummer.com](http://mssupersummer.com)



# REFRESH

Great gifts are all you need... and I will give  
you the... Refresh your life with this...

## You are Invited to FOCUS ON KINGDOM ESSENTIALS

Refresh is a church leadership training conference for pastors, bi-vocational ministers, church staff leaders and volunteer workers who are interested in sharpening skills and finding spiritual refreshment. The one-day format preserves your time and maximizes your opportunity to choose courses of interest. Look over the shortlist that follows and get detailed information from your Associational Missions Director, or on the Web at [www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org). Click on the REFRESH link. Cost: \$10 which will include lunch. Preregistration is not required.

## Temple Baptist Church/West Campus

5220 Highway 11 • Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
Saturday, May 30, 2009 • 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



**Don Wilton**  
Keynote Speaker  
Pastor, FBC  
Spartanburg, SC



**T.W. Hunt**  
Noted Author  
and  
Prayer Warrior



**Lavon Gray**  
Music Pastor  
FBC  
Jackson, MS



**Tony Merida**  
Teaching Pastor  
Temple BC  
Hattiesburg, MS



**Tommy King**  
President  
William Carey  
University

## Speakers and Topics

### Spiritual Growth & Pastoral Ministry

**T.W. Hunt**...The Personal and Spiritual Growth of a Leader  
**Lavon Gray**...Ministers of Music  
**Tommy King**...Balancing a Bi-Vocational Ministry and LifeStyle  
**Tony Merida**...The Nuts and Bolts of Preparing for Sunday  
**Steve Stone**...Knowing and Doing the Will of God

### Church Growth & Missions

**Tammy Anderson**...Family Mission Projects  
**Peggy Brock**...Leading a Child to Faith in Christ  
**Steve Davis**...Deacons in Ministry  
**Rick Howerton**...Small Group Ministry  
**Mike McCool**...The Innovative Church  
**George Ross**...The Need for Planting Churches in a Church Culture  
**Rick Sawyer**...Building Bridges to Reach the Unchurched in Your Community  
**Wade Steelman**...Mentoring Church Leaders and Initiating a Mentoring Launch  
**Cindy Townsend**...Refresh Your Women's Ministry  
**Gastón Romero**...VIDA DEVOTIONAL

### Age-Group Ministry

**Ann Edwards**...Current Trends in Preschool Ministry  
**Angie Boydston**...Current Trends in Children's Ministry  
**Rick Morton**...Current Trends in Youth Ministry  
**Jason Hayes**...Current Trends in Young Adult Ministry  
**Alan Raughton**...Current Trends for Reaching Boomers and Busters

**All 1st-6th grade children** who are coming with their parents to the Refresh Conference at Temple Baptist Church on Saturday, May 30, are invited to participate in a Missions Extravaganza. We are going on an imaginary journey to several countries in the Pacific Rim. In each country, we will hear a missionary story and make a craft.

Come join us on this incredible adventure on the Orient Express!

Child care will be available at no cost for all preschoolers who are coming with their parents by the Preschool Ministry Department at Temple Baptist Church. There is no cost for the child care or the Missions Extravaganza, however preregistration is required. The deadline to register is Friday, May 15, 2009. To register for the Missions Extravaganza or child care, please call Diane Howell in the Preschool Ministry Department at Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, at 601-450-3069.

## HOTEL INFORMATION • Microtel Inn • (601) 450-1592

105 Westover Drive, Hattiesburg, MS • 39402  
Ask for Group Code Title: REFRESH Conference  
(Hotel is located just west of I-59 at Exit 65  
on the north side of Highway 98)

Sponsored by: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Life Christian Resources and Your Local Association.



## Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:14-16

### Cooperative Program Day (STEW Emphasis)

Pray for members of Trinity Baptist Church in Savannah, April 24-May 7, as they travel to SE Asia to do village evangelism.

### Christian Home Week (D&FM Emphasis)

Edwina Robinson Special Day Emphasis (WMU)

Pray for believers in China who risk their lives and are imprisoned for their faith.

(1) Preschool/Children's Minister's Retreat, Garaywa, 27th-28th (Preschool/Children's Team); (2) Miraculously, the JESUS film was shown on TV in Bangladesh on Easter. Pray for Muslim hearts to be moved as a result of this exposure.

(1) Pastor/Sunday School Director Conference, Fifteenth Avenue BC, Hattiesburg, 6-9 p.m. (SS); (2) Pray for believers in Myanmar, a primarily Buddhist country, where the government is constantly trying to shut down all churches and Christian organizations.

Continue to pray for members of Cleary Baptist Church while they are among an unreached, unengaged people group in SE Asia. This is a sensitive area among a Muslim people group. Pray for open doors to see the Gospel spread.

(1) Senior Adult Choir Festival, Morrison Heights BC, Clinton, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (CM); (2) Pastor/Sunday School Director Conference, Calvary BC, Batesville, 6-9 p.m. (SS).

Pray for a missionary in Russia as she shows The Passion of the Christ movie to unbelieving student friends. Pray that the viewing of this film will lead to opportunities to lead these students to Christ.

(1) Baptist Building at Home Days, 6th-8th; (2) Pray for five villages in Mexico where there is no Baptist church. East Salem BC of Leesville did Gospel saturation in this area. Pray that the lost church for their project will commit to beginning work in these villages.

(1) Pray for a team from Hickory Ridge BC in Florence as they travel to the Dominican Republic, April 27-May 4, to serve in human needs projects and evangelism; (2) Pray that Hindu extremists will not win the elections in Orissa, India, so that Christian persecution will not escalate.

(1) Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Sevierville, Tenn., 7th-10th (WMU); (2) Pray for political unrest to cease in Bangkok, Thailand. Many teams travel through this gateway city when serving all over the Pacific Rim.

Pray for (1) a team from Morrison Heights BC, Clinton, as they travel to a country in North Africa, April 24-May 2, to do medical mission work; (2) State Handbell Festival, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 24th-25th (CM).

(1) Associational Missions Leadership Training & Annual Meeting, Garaywa, May 1-2 (WMU); (2) Witnessing Through Media, Colonial Heights BC, Ridgeland, 15th-2nd (CS); (3) Pray for the gospel to spread in North Korea even though the government has isolated it from the rest of the world.

Pray for (1) a team led by the Gary Bowlin Evangelistic Association as they travel to Peru, April 24-May 1, to work in the areas of VBS and evangelism; (2) Youth Speakers Tournament (D&FM); (3) Bible Drill Selection Tournament (D&FM).

(1) Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (MM); (2) A deacon was imprisoned and 17 church members fined in Uzbekistan when accused of teaching Baptist beliefs to children. Pray for them as they struggle to serve the Lord.



## Christian Education Clinic

Cost \$5 at the door  
Classes for Infants and Toddlers  
2's - 3's, 4's - 5's  
After school care

For questions and preregistration, please call 228-832-4311

## May 9 Woolmarket BC Biloxi

Registration 7:30 a.m.  
Conferences on the hour  
beginning at 8 til noon

MS Dept. of Health approved

Cosponsored by the Gulf Coast Baptist Association and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

It is the desire of Mississippi Baptists and the Gulf Coast Baptist Association to offer quality Christian training for those who affect the lives of Mississippi's most precious citizens.

## Lad/Crusader Day



## STATEWIDE RACER COMPETITION MAY 2, 2009

For more information, contact Deanna Vail at 601.292.3335 or 1.800.748.1651, ext. 335.

# HOUSE TOPS

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# ominees sought for MBC posts

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Committee on Nominations will begin reviewing the trustee/board members on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 2010, starting with Joe Pate, committee chair and pastor of First Church, Greenwood, there will be a number of vacancies to be filled on the ruling boards and commissions:

- Mississippi Baptist Children's Village
- Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc., Jackson
- Mississippi Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Memphis
- Board of Ministerial Education
- Education Commission
- Historical Commission
- Blue Mountain College
- Mississippi College
- William Carey University

- Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, Inc.
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
- Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The Committee on Nominations will work together with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers of the 174th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 27-28.

Nomination forms are available from Executive Administration — Brenda Box, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: 601/292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-Mail: [bbox@mbcb.org](mailto:bbox@mbcb.org). Completed forms should be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, Executive Administration, at the above address to be received no later than May 1.

## Planned Parenthood increases abortions

WASHINGTON (BP and local) — Planned Parenthood, country's No. 1 abortion provider, increased its count of procedures to 300,000-plus last year and again totaled one million dollars in revenue, according to its latest annual report. The Federation of Planned Parenthood (PPFA) recorded 10 abortions in 2007, the year for which statistics were reported. In 2006, PPFA reported for 289,750 abortions. Total revenue reached \$1.04 million, with \$349.6 million of that in government grants and contracts. Those figures are for the financial year from July 1, 2007 to June 2008.

Mississippi does not have a state-affiliated clinic, although there are affiliated clinics in other states that advertise heavily in yellow pages around Mississippi.

The lone abortion clinic in the state is the Jackson Women's Health Organization.

PPFA's abortion figures include those performed by surgical means in its clinics as well as those done by use of the abortion regimen RU-486/mifepristone, which poisons and expels the developing child from its mother's womb.

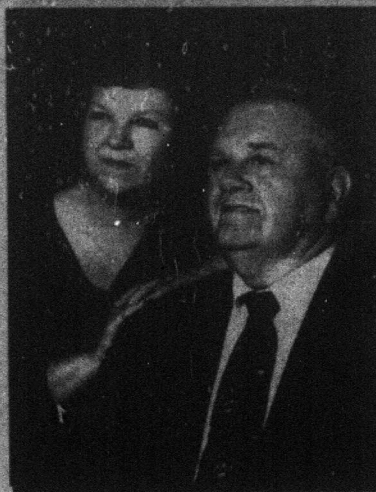
Planned Parenthood's abortion toll actually may be far greater. PPFA distributed more than 1.4 million "emergency contraception" kits in 2007. Emergency contraception, also known as the "morning-after" pill or by the brand name Plan B, works to restrict ovulation in a woman but it also can act after conception, thereby causing an abortion. This mechanism of the drug blocks implantation of a tiny embryo in the uterine wall.

In an April 1 commentary for Scripps Howard News Service, Public Broadcasting System host (PBS) Bonnie Erbe ridiculed the idea that an increase in abortions because of the economic downturn is a tragedy.

Responding to an Associated Press report of a mother of three who had chosen abortion, Erbe said the decision by the woman and her boyfriend was a "fact-based, rational decision that in the end benefits the three children they already have and society as well."

"One may assume this family of five is struggling just to maintain its basics: housing and food," Erbe wrote. "Add one more child and those costs rise as income drops. It's no tragedy; it's a good decision. The decision benefits society in two ways. It allows the couple to focus more time, energy and resources on their three children, giving each child a better life and a better chance of growing up to become a contributor to society. It also reduces the chance the family will have to rely on scarce public resources to raise their children."

## STAFF CHANGES



1. The Bakers

1. Fellowship Church, Ripley, has called Billy W. Baker as pastor. Shown are Baker and his wife Becky.

2. First Church, Guntown, has called Jacob Dawe as youth leader, Oct. 26, 2008. Dawe was licensed to the ministry Dec. 14, 2008 by the church. Shown are pastor Bobby Robbins, Dawe, and Wayne Phelps.

3. Fernwood Church, Pike County, has called Wayne Hall as pastor. Shown are Hall and his wife Jeanette.



2. Dawe licensing



3. The Halls

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

## Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

15-Days; Departs July 2, 2009 from \$2148\*

"I liked this trip so much...we're going back!"

July 2, 2009, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. J. Berry Worrell on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available for those in the group who wish to participate. This will be Rev. Worrell's second time hosting this YMT Baptist vacation package. The first was on this same Alaska Cruise and Pacific Northwest trip that departed June 12, 2005. For 22 years, Rev. Worrell has served as Minister of Music and Senior Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Grenada, Mississippi. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City for a day with a city tour (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake). Next your group will take a five day scenic drive to Vancouver by way of Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone & Yellowstone National Park (two nights); Butte, Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Spokane, Washington; and Penticton, BC before boarding your five-star ship, HAL's ms Volendam in Vancouver. Enjoy the 5-star Signature of Excellence Holland America Line is famous for! And take advantage of Baptist devotions for group aboard ship! Travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved coast, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Alaska, Glacier Bay National Park, and Ketchikan while sailing Alaska's Inside Passage. End tour with one night in Seattle, Washington (with city tour) before flying home July 16, 2009. \$2148 per person, dbl. occ.; includes port charges, government fees, taxes and services; Alaska state tax; the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, baggage handling and motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest. Airfare is extra.

For information, Reservations, Brochure

& Letter from Rev. Worrell Call 7 Days a Week:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

It's that time of year.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

VISIT

[www.msbbaptistfoundation.org](http://www.msbbaptistfoundation.org)  
TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry provides needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. For more information about the MBF Scholarship Ministry, please visit our website, [www.msbbaptistfoundation.org](http://www.msbbaptistfoundation.org). Scholarship applications for the 2009-2010 academic year are available on our website. Completed applications must be received in the MBF office by April 30.





## JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **Sunrise Church, Carthage**, is hosting a fishing tournament and fish fry. Fish fry, Apr. 24, 6 p.m.; tournament, Apr. 25; must register Friday night to enter; no entry fee; cash prizes and trophies awarded. For more information, visit [www.sunrisebc.net](http://www.sunrisebc.net).
2. The Seekers Sunday School class of **Main St. Church, Goodman**, held a women's spring luncheon Mar. 28; Barbie Bassett, featured speaker; 21 churches represented; John W. Parker, pastor.
3. **Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa**, is hosting a National Day of Prayer Service May 6, 6:30 p.m., featuring a color guard, speeches from local officials and a military chaplain, and other

prayers. Program followed by grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and pie and ice cream.

4. **Fellowship Church, Ripley**, set \$1000 goals for both their Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings and exceeded both.
5. **Neshoba Association** is hosting a Family Celebration May 9, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Neshoba Baptist Center including a hunting demonstration with P.J. Weeks, Chris Webb on parenting, Glen Shows on marriage and family, Perry "Air Head" Robbins, MCCC BSU block party team, inflatable jumps and slides, face painting, puppets, refreshments, fried fish, burgers and hotdogs, music, door prizes, and more.

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Sunrise Church, Petal**: Revival, May 3 - 6; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Stan Buckley, speaker; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, music.
2. **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**: Revival, May 3 - 6; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor and Wesley Lee, revival team.
3. **Westwood Church, Meridian**: Revival, Apr. 26 - 29; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; David Mitchell, speaker; Chris Lee, music.
4. **Silver Creek Church, Pike County**: 195th homecoming, May 3; services begin, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Arise & Sing, Shepherds Call Quartet, music; David Fortenberry, speaker.
5. **North Columbia Church, Columbia**: Revival, Apr. 26 - 29; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Dean Stewart, speaker; David Dewease, Ruben McDowell, Brad Stevens, and Len Cooke, music.
6. **Fellowship Church, Ripley**: Revival, Apr. 26 - 29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Michael Baker, speaker; Chris Reaves, music.
7. **Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven**: Homecoming, Apr. 26; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; singing, 10:15 a.m.; special presentation and worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship; Randy Lewman, speaker; Smith Family, music.
8. **Parkway Church, Kosciusko**: Revival, Apr. 26 - 29; Sun., 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Malcolm Lewis, speaker.
9. **Salem Church, Kemper County**: Homecoming, Apr. 26; Singing, 10:30 a.m., followed by worship and potluck dinner; The Brandon Hughes Family, music.



**The Baptist Record**  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205

## BIBLE DRILLS

1. **First Church, Byhalia**, recognizes its Bible drillers. Youth back row; children, front row.
2. **Wallerville Church** held their church drills Apr. 8. Shown are Bible buddies: Hillary McBrayer, Amber Cooksey, Will Norwood, and Tripp Mills. Also shown are the children's drillers: Jacob Verrell, Kaitlyn Cooksey, Caroline Wiginton, and Clay Wanner.



1. First Church, Byhalia



2a. Wallerville Church Bible Buddies



2b. Wallerville Church children's drillers



### 8th Annual GCBA Leadership Conference

May 5, 2009

9:00 AM

FBC Gulfport

Cost: \$20 by April 28 \$30 after April 28

**"Understanding Your Ministry Context"**  
with Tom Carringer

Pre-register by April 28 and receive via e-mail a high level demographic overview of your church for use during the conference.



## BIBLE STUDY

### Jesus the Son of Man

By Arthur Story

Three weeks ago we began our series of lessons on the life of Jesus. This week we bring of lessons to a close, calling for a decision. Thus far in our series, we've considered people who have known the truth of the resurrection. We've discussed every Christian's credible witness. This week's lesson is the closing argument of the series. It recaps the three lessons and reveals the need to make a decision. This week's lesson is a challenging one. It presents the truth that Jesus is the Son of Man. (Acts 2:22) Peter's first sermon.

## EXPLORING THE LOST

By Beth S. Bowman

Casting a Vision (Isaiah 52)

I love the way the passage to the word of encouragement. Sing! (KJV) In an it translates, (HCSB). Here good news for the Israel. Chapter 5 the tremendous the coming Savior the life of the Israel could now. These verses to judgment is past that God will reb and reestablish William Carey the English Baptist his text was off. "Enlarge the site and let your territory stretched out; back; lengthen ye

The Baptist Record news and photos that take place in the Mississippi Baptist News submit Baptists Record ten, (b) neatly paper, or (c) neat forms provided. Photos must be received will be accepted. News may be to the address contained in the mail form. Due to no text attachments. Photograph attached.



## LE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### the Savior: Accept or Reject?

Acts 2:22-24, 32-26, 37-41

#### Story

Weeks ago we began our series of lessons on Jesus as Savior and Lord. We bring our series to a conclusion by decision.

In our series, we've seen people's views of Jesus. We've investigated the resurrection, and discussed the need for a Christian to live as a witness for Christ. This lesson serves as a argument to our lesson recaps the previous lessons and clearly shows the need for people to make a decision about Jesus. This lesson identifies the steps we can use when we bring people to accept that Jesus is Savior.

#### Present the Proof

Acts 2:22-24

The first step in chal-

lenging the people to accept the truth that Jesus is the Savior was to give a clear presentation of the proof.

Peter began by drawing on what the people already knew about Jesus. It was an irrefutable fact that Jesus had performed many miracles, wonders, and signs among the people. Had anyone been able to invalidate any aspect of Jesus' ministry, they would have already come forth publicly. Those who opposed Jesus would have been quick to bring forth any evidence that could be used to ensure that Jesus would have no following among the people.

Peter continues presenting the proof that Jesus is the Savior by dealing with a possible misperception among the people. Peter makes it clear to the people that Jesus' death was not an accident but rather a part of God's divine plan.



#### Story

When we challenge people to accept the truth that Jesus is the Savior, we should follow Peter's example and point them to the proof. The historical record of Jesus' ministry provides irrefutable proof of miraculous signs that are designed to lead people to belief (John 20:30-31). We should also explain that Jesus willingly fulfilled God's plan through His death, burial, and resurrection (Isaiah 53, Matthew 26:52-54, John 10:17-18).

#### Proclaim Jesus is the Savior (Acts 2:32-36)

Peter's second step in challenging the people to accept the truth that Jesus is the Savior was to clearly proclaim that Jesus is both Lord and Messiah. Building on the previously presented proof, Peter

Some might have thought that Jesus' death showed weakness and proved He was not sent by God. Peter negates this thinking by pointing the people to the fact that Jesus' death at the hands of sinful men was a fulfillment of God's plan.

draws on Scripture to continue making his point about Jesus. In expounding on Psalm 110, Peter leads those listening to understand that Jesus is the one being referenced to in the Scripture as Lord.

The fact that Jesus is both Lord and Messiah is an important part in our witness to others. Peter's proclamation that Jesus is Lord clearly reveals that Jesus has authority over all. Some people we talk with today might not want to submit to Jesus and honor His rightful authority in their lives. Nevertheless, we must explain to them that He is Lord and eventually they will submit to His authority (Philippians 2:9-11).

In addition to His Lordship, Peter also proclaimed that Jesus is the Messiah; the redeemer that the Jews were awaiting. As we witness to others, we must challenge them with the fact that they need a redeemer. We must challenge them to understand that they need God's forgiveness (Romans 3:23, 6:23). In addition, we must reveal that Jesus is the only one who can

provide salvation (John 14:6) because He is truly both Lord and Messiah.

#### Reveal the Possibilities (Acts 2:37-42)

Peter's third step in challenging the people to accept the truth that Jesus is the Savior was to reveal the possibilities. The people listening to Peter were so convicted by the truth about Jesus that they wouldn't wait to be told what they needed to do. Instead, they asked Peter and the rest of the apostles to tell them what to do. Peter's response revealed that they had only two choices. They could repent and receive forgiveness in Christ or they could reject Him and eventually die in their sin. Like Peter, we need to be sure to tell people the truth about Jesus and also explain to them what they must do to be saved.

As you witness for Christ this week, follow Peter's three steps; present the proof, proclaim Jesus is the Savior, and reveal the possibilities.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### the Lord is Compassionate

Isaiah 54:1-10

#### Bowman

#### A Vision for Israel (Isaiah 54:1-4)

The way Isaiah begins his message to Israel with a word of encouragement — "Rejoice!" In another version, Isaiah says, "Rejoice!" Here comes some good news for the country of Israel. Chapter 53 ended with the promise of a Savior. Because of the coming King, the land will be restored. Verses tell us God's plan is past history and will rebuild their city and establish peace. As Isaiah cast a vision to the Baptist Churches, he was often verse two, the site of your tent, your tent curtains be let out; do not hold back your ropes, and

drive your pegs deep." This verse as well as the following two reminds the Israelites that they will prosper in God's blessing and favor. God has forgotten the disobedience of their past and is calling them to a great future. He encouraged the nation of Israel to forget the years when they were enduring the Babylonian exile and captivity. After this tumultuous time, the Israelites felt small in number and weak. Soon, through God's restoration, they would become large in number. Israel, get out the baby clothes, sew an extension on that tent. We are going to grow!

#### Choosing Compassion for Israel (Isaiah 54:5-6)

There are many titles which God can claim. He is the all-knowing, the all-encompassing, the Creator, the Maker of Heaven and



#### Bowman

Earth. The title that brings to mind the ultimate claim and endearment, though, is that of husband. Isaiah is using the marriage analogy between God and Israel to remind them that God's love for them is a tender love. This kind of love and compassion is like a husband to a wife, the kind of love that says, "I choose you forever. You are mine." Through the centuries, many a hurting woman has taken this promise for herself, the promise that God will be a husband to them, when all others have forsaken them. It is awesome to see the proactive nature of God when He chooses us as demonstrated in these verses.

Israel, put a hem on that wedding dress and update your trousseau; your husband is coming to claim you for His own.

#### Calling into Covenant for Israel (Isaiah 54:7-10)

God had to discipline Israel and punish them many times

over the course of history. God really never forsook Israel; yet He recognizes that they felt forsaken. He never hid His face, though it felt as if He had left them during times of discipline. Matthew Henry, the famous theologian, says it his way: "The wrath is little, but the mercies are great; the wrath is for a moment, but the kindness everlasting. See how one is set over against the other that we may neither despond under our afflictions nor despair of relief." Isaiah reminds them that God's promise is similar to the covenant He made with Noah. Just as God promised that the floodwaters of Noah's day would not cover the earth forever, so will His anger recede from Israel. Though the mountains move and the hills shake, His love and peace would not be removed. Israel, write this covenant with a Sharpie™ marker — it's permanent!

In 2001, I found myself much like the Israelites were described in this passage: deserted, rejected, and wounded in spirit. Having to

raise two boys by myself was next to impossible. Most days it was overwhelming to do all of stuff as the only adult in the house...things like putting the put kids to bed, balancing the checkbook, locking the doors, and then feeding the poor dog. However, God cared for me like a husband by giving me the family of First Church, Brandon. They encouraged us with hot meals, car pools, warm hugs and yes, even feeding the poor dog. The most incredible act was the church saying to me, we choose you to continue to minister with us. Although my circumstances were not the same as the rebellious Israelites, I still experienced the tremendous love and compassion poured from the heart of God to me through this really neat church. Despite any circumstances, we have a God who has chosen us! Let's get some new monograms on the towels. We've been chosen as His Very Own.

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

Baptist Record is pleased to publish photographs of special events and place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper or (c) neatly printed on standardized provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles accepted over the telephone.

Articles may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be in the message segment of an e-mail. Due to increasing virus threats, attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

# Baptist Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.





1. West Shady Grove Church groundbreaking



2. Petal-Harvey Church



3. O'Zion Church deacon ordination



4. Crystal Springs Church Mission Friends and Children in Action



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

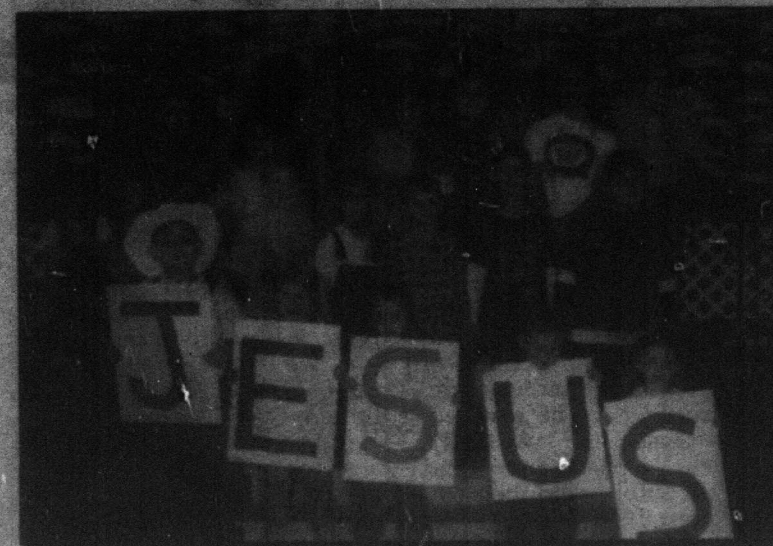
1. West Shady Grove Church, Waynesboro, held a ground breaking for their new sanctuary Mar. 1. Shown are the participants.
2. The 3-year-old choir of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, sang love songs to Jesus recently. Shown are the participants.
3. O'Zion Church, Meadville, ordained Shawn Ward and Darren Ward as deacons Mar. 1. Shown are pastor Glenn Bird, Valerie and Shawn Ward, Darren and Joanna Ward, and Joe Hill.
4. The Mission Friends and Children in Action of Crystal Springs Church, Tylertown, collected money to buy supplies for the Baptist Children's Village. Shown are the participants.
5. Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia, held a baby dedication March 29. Shown are the participants.
6. Friendship Church, McComb, held a deacon ordination service Jan. 11. Shown, front row are pastor LaVerne Summerlin; newly elected deacons Tommy Carraw, Mike C. Brister, David Blailock; deacon chairman James Earl White; back row, newly elected deacons Tommy Myers, Ken Willingham, and Jamie Jackson.
7. The children's choir of Goss Church, Columbia presented the musical Good News From a Grave. Shown are the participants.
8. The children of Scotland Church, Montgomery County, participated in a children's ministry day Feb. 14 by hosting a Valentine supper open to the church and the community. Shown are the participants.
9. Holcomb Church, Holcomb, will have an old-fashioned day May 3, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Joyful Noise Quartet, music.



5. Bluff Springs Church baby dedication



6. Friendship Church deacon ordination



7. Goss Church children's choir



8. Scotland Church children